

**OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

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March 16, 2005

Reply to: STB041021A

Victoria Rutson
Chief Section of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20423

RE: Abandonment Exemption of Stockton, Terminal & Eastern Railroad, Linden San Joaquin County
CA

Dear Ms Rutson,

Thank you for your letter dated January 7, 2005 letter and March 7, 2005 transmittal of the Historic Property Survey regarding the proposed Abandonment Exemption of the Stockton, Terminal & Eastern Railroad, (STERR), Linden, San Joaquin County CA. You are providing me with the results of your efforts to determine for the benefit of the Surface Transportation Board (STB), whether the project may affect historic properties. You are consulting with me in order to enable the STB to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and implementing regulations codified at 36 CFR Part 800.

The Surface Transportation Board in cooperation with the San Joaquin County Department of Public Works proposes to abandon approximately .68 miles of track material of the abandoned STERR in the city of Linden, California. The line extends from the western edge of North Duncan Road east to North Flood Road. The STERR has stated that salvage activities will not involve subsurface disturbance of the right-of-way. One property was identified within the project area of potential effects, (APE), which includes the railroad right of way, regular gauge steel track, and associated signage and control features.

You have found that the railroad and associated properties are ineligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places because the rail line lacks associations with significant events or persons in history at a local, state, or national level. Additionally the property does not represent a significant engineering achievement related to the development and construction of early 20th century railroads. Likewise, due to its initial substandard construction and continued maintenance the property lacks adequate integrity rendering it unable to convey significance at any level.

I have reviewed the supporting documentation you have provided and concur with your finding that the abandoned section of the Stockton Terminal & Eastern Railroad within the city of Linden is not eligible for the NRHP and that no historic properties will be affected by the proposed undertaking. Thank you for considering historic properties during project planning. If you have any questions, please contact Kelly Hobbs at (916) 653-8936 or by e-mail at khobb@ohp.parks.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA
State Historic Preservation Officer